



Michael R. Pence, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging

MS 21, 402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083
TOLL FREE: 1-888-673-0002
FAX: 317-232-7867

**Division of Aging Update
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New faces at the Division of Aging

Mindy Flowers recently joined the Division of Aging's (DA) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) team, which is operating at full capacity again. She received her bachelor of arts in psychology with a minor in criminal justice in 2008, and has extensive experience in the social service arena and working with a diverse population. She also previously worked in the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) network as a full-time case manager. Mindy will work remotely from the Evansville area, while Karen Wolfe, another member recently added to the HCBS team, works out of Richmond. The division plans to add more care management consultants to increase statewide coverage, and accessibility to providers and the AAA network.

Another new staff member to recently join the division is Tanya Downing, who will serve as the DA's Quality Assurance Manager. She holds a bachelor of social work and certificate in case management from IUPUI and recently earned her master of social work with a concentration in health, also from IUPUI, in December of 2015. Prior to joining FSSA, Tanya was employed at CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions for nine years. Tanya also serves on the Board of Directors as a Member-At-Large for the Indiana Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care.

Lt. Governor Holcomb and FSSA now accepting 2016 Golden Hoosier Award Nominations

It's that time of year again! Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb, in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Aging, has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Golden Hoosier Awards. The award, considered one of the highest honors given by the state of Indiana to senior citizens, annually honors Hoosier for their lifetime of service and commitment to their communities. To be eligible for the Golden Hoosier Award, the nominee must currently be an Indiana resident, age 65 or older, and have served as a volunteer in the community for the past three years.

The nomination form must be submitted online by April 29, 2016, and is available by [clicking here](#). The awards will be presented to the selected 2016 Golden Hoosier recipients on June 3, 2016, at the Indiana Statehouse.



CHOICE Pilot Program and Training on Person-Centered Planning

Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE) is a 100 percent state-funded program that provides long-term services and supports to individuals at risk of institutionalization, who are not eligible for Medicaid.

A CHOICE pilot program was established in 2014 at four Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to demonstrate that by updating eligibility requirements and assessment protocols, publicly-funded services can be woven into informal and community supports to reduce the risk of institutionalization. Person-centered planning and needs-based assessment practices are core features of the CHOICE pilot program.

The Division of Aging recently provided training on “person-centeredness” to case managers from the four pilot AAAs. Personnel from The Lewin Group, a health and human services consulting group that provides technical assistance and support for a variety of policy programs nationwide, led the training. The all-day event included the history behind person-centered practices, and current federal regulation requirements for states to provide access to person-centered planning for individuals in need of home and community based services.

Person-centered practice is built on the premise that any support provided should build on the gifts and abilities of the individual and the resources already available to them, and identifies each individual as the expert on their own life and needs. The goal of person-centered planning is to find a balance between the individual's preferences, and health and safety concerns. In the traditional model, goals are identified by professionals based on the needs and deficits they identify for the individual. However, with person-centered planning, the desired outcomes are identified by the person and their loved ones.

New scam affecting older Americans traveling overseas

Global scams that turn older Americans into unwitting drug couriers were a recent focus of a [Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing](#). International cartels are recruiting older adults via email, with false promises of romance or money to travel to foreign countries, said the committee's chairwoman, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME). These trips often involve complicated itineraries that have the traveler stopping more than once on the way to the final destination. At one of the stops on a trip, the older adult is given a package or suitcase in which drugs are hidden. If customs officials find the drugs, the victims can be sentenced to jail time. According to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in some foreign countries, criminal intent is not necessary to be convicted of a crime. And the trial process can be much less transparent than in the United States, making it difficult for the government to keep track of cases. Such schemes are thought to have ensnared more than 83 older Americans to date, with 30 individuals remaining in overseas jails.

Stay informed on Indiana's LTC Ombudsman Program

Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of nursing homes, board and care homes, and assisted living facilities. They provide information about how to find a facility and what to do to get quality care, and are trained to resolve problems and assist with complaints. Under the federal Older Americans Act, every state is required to have an ombudsman program that addresses complaints and advocates for improvements in the long-term care system.

According to Karen Gilliland, Indiana's Long-Term Care Ombudsman director, during state fiscal year 2015, 22 full and part-time ombudsman staff worked throughout all 92 Indiana counties to provide advocacy and complaint resolution services to any resident of Indiana's 542 licensed nursing facilities or 313 licensed residential care settings. These individual ombudsmen fielded 1,500 calls for service and information, and opened 1,100 cases for investigation and resolution with follow-up on the health, safety, welfare, and/or rights of the residents. To find your local long-term care ombudsman please visit the ombudsman webpage [by clicking here](#).

The Iowa Governor's Conference on Aging & Disabilities (GCOAD)

The Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council are hosting the Iowa Governor's Conference on Aging & Disabilities (GCOAD) in May, 2016. Powered by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), the GCOAD will explore innovative ideas and practices being adopted throughout the nation to improve and enhance quality of life, including:

- Advances in technology;
- Methods to encourage and improve self-advocacy;
- Evidence-based programs to promote health, wellness, and personal safety;
- Changes in the American workforce;
- Developments in public policy;
- Activities to heighten public awareness about issues affecting older adults and adults with disabilities; and
- Cultural and societal progress toward empowering individuals to achieve their goals for independence and full participation in the community.

This educational and networking event is designed to celebrate older adults and adults with disabilities, and shine a spotlight on the strides organizations and individuals in Iowa and across the country are making in re-imagining the aging and disability networks. For more information and how to register please visit the [conference website](#).